

NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

(Mr. BENISHEK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of National School Choice Week. I have traveled all across northern Michigan, and I have been blessed to visit all kinds of schools in my district. I have met with hard-working kids, parents, and teachers who are trying to achieve a better future.

Our education system should not be a one-size-fits-all model. School choice programs provide a way for parents to help their children succeed. Choice promotes competition in our educational system, which will improve the educational outcome for all students.

While many students are able to prosper by attending their local public school, many others are bogged down by outdated rules that prevent parents from choosing the best educational fit for their children. In order to succeed, parents need options and flexibility, not more regulations.

Michigan has enacted the popular Schools of Choice program, which allows parents to send their children to any school in a participating district. These are the types of programs that empower parents and students instead of teachers' unions and bureaucrats.

School choice will help to ensure that every child has a chance to flourish, and that is why I am a proud supporter of National School Choice Week.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call this House to action. In the opening weeks of the 114th Congress, this Chamber has voted to deport DREAMers and the parents of American citizens. And the House majority continues to put our national security at risk by threatening to shut down the Department of Homeland Security just because they object to the administration's efforts to keep immigrant families together and to deport violent criminals.

No matter how you feel about the administration's efforts, we should all recognize that it is time to set aside these partisan games and take substantive action to pass a comprehensive immigration reform bill. It is not just the moral thing to do for so many of our friends and neighbors; it is the right thing to do for our economy, for our public safety, and for our country.

I will urge House leadership to bring a comprehensive immigration reform bill to the floor for a vote. It is the right thing to do.

COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

(Mr. DOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the importance of the legislation that we passed this week on human trafficking.

Sadly, my district is no stranger to this despicable crime. In both Lake and Cook Counties, we seem to have too many cases of human trafficking. In the Chicagoland area, up to 25,000 women and girls are victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

According to the Justice Department, as many as 300,000 American youths are at risk of becoming victims of sexual trafficking. The average age for girls that first become victims is between 12 and 14 years of age.

This legislation will protect our youth by establishing programs to help runaways and homeless children who are at the highest risk for becoming victims. The bills will also help address the issue by giving tools to health care professionals and law enforcement to identify and help victims of human trafficking, and to create programs to deter and prevent human trafficking in the first place.

Human trafficking for sexual exploitation is an epidemic that needs to be stopped. This is a first step, and we must remain focused to end human trafficking altogether.

PASS LEGISLATION THAT MATTERS

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would just ask that the Republican leadership begin to bring legislation to the floor that would actually make a difference for America, certainly addressing the economy and job creation and increasing wages, which are so important to my constituents and, I believe, to all Americans.

It just seems like all the Republican leadership is doing here is rehashing the same old legislation that is going nowhere either because it won't pass the Senate or because the President won't sign it.

Today, after the 1-minute speeches, we are going to have the third pipeline bill that essentially tries to strait-jacket Federal agencies—again, not going anywhere. It is pretty likely the President would veto any of them if they come to his desk.

I understand that on Tuesday the leadership is going to bring up another Affordable Care Act repeal. This will be like the 56th or 57th effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act, which is actually working well. More Americans than ever have signed up during this second enrollment period. We had another effort to weaken the Affordable Care Act just a couple of weeks ago.

It is time to do the things that people want, talk about the economy, and bring legislation that matters to the American people.

REVERSE SEQUESTRATION CUTS

(Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on my colleagues to join me in stopping the sequester's impact on our military.

I want Members to hear what General Martin Dempsey, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, had to say. He directly advises the President and Congress, and these are his words:

The combination of the Budget Control Act and the sequestration mechanism will make it impossible for us to meet our global responsibilities.

Again from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs:

The readiness hole is still the readiness hole. The global security environment is more dangerous and sequestration is still on the books as the law. It's absolutely crazy for this country.

Since the President promised the sequestration would not happen but then he said he would veto changes to it, some Members of this House seem to have accepted that the sequestration must go into effect.

National security is an essential part of our job, and with growing threats both domestic and abroad, Members of this House must come together to end the sequester cuts that reduce the capabilities of our armed services.

We—the Members of Congress, the President, and General Dempsey—all swore the same oath to defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. We as Members of Congress have a duty to provide a military to protect the American people.

These challenges hit close to home for me. As a Georgia Republican on the Armed Services Committee, I am going to continue to fight on behalf of the men and women at Robins and Moody Air Force Bases and the warfighters of this country who protect us.

FEDERAL SPENDING AND THE SAVE ACT

(Mr. ASHFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Federal spending.

In my home State of Nebraska, we are mandated by the State constitution to balance the budget. This is something that we are sorely in need of here in Washington.

The Congressional Budget Office just released a report that indicated that deficits are projected to balloon over the next several years, topping \$1 trillion by 2025. The national debt will grow to over \$21 trillion by the same year.

Mr. Speaker, we all know these are unsustainable trends. That is why I am very proud to be a cosponsor of the Savings Accountability Value and Efficiency Act, or SAVE Act. This bill, introduced by my good friend and colleague Congressman PATRICK MURPHY,